NRG Poll, Jan 2016: Are you in favor of the gradual application of Israeli Law in Judea and Samaria?

- 44% in favor of gradual application of Israeli law in Judea and Samaria
- 38% not in favor
- 18% no opinion

60% of the youth favor the application of the law on the entire area
61% of rightwingers favor the application of law on the entire area
61% of ultra-orthodox favor the application of law on the entire area
69% of those who define themselves rightwing favor the gradual application of the law
18% of those who define themselves as leftwing favor the application of the law on the entire area
32% of those who define themselves as leftwingers favor the application of the law on the Jewish communities

Minister Haim Katz: We need a declaration of commitment to Judea and Samaria as there was for the Golan Heights
Rep. Alan Clemmons: It is impossible for a Jew to be an occupier in his own ancestral homeland, Judea
David P. Goldman: Judea and Samaria in a region of failed states. Time is on Israel’s side
This political correctness is killing us

A talk with Ruhi Raza

In recent months there has been a change in the people’s frame of mind. The idea, which till now will swell a heavy price in blood, that withdrawal will reduce the intensity of the terror, is fading. The People of Israel has understood that the reality is not suitable to such notions, even if friends, or so-called friends, on the other side of the ocean put pressure on us to act in this misguided manner.

The People in Israel and its leaders understand that the cause of terror is not despair but fear, the Arab hopes to destroy us and push us out of the Land that was promised and given to us thousands of years ago. The people understood that this hope must be cut off and therefore the time has come for sovereignty. Even if there are differences of opinion about how it is proper to act gradually, step after step, area after area, or whether, perhaps, it is better to act drastically once and for all, why, the answer is clearer now than ever – sovereignty is not only the realization of the Zionist and principled vision, responsibility applied sovereignty is also an essential answer for security.

These days, when, from the United States threatening winds are blowing to give a green light to anti-Israel ideology, funding and suicides, the military and the police work like crazy. I see it in every day in the streets, but the real war is to “change the diskire” by applying Israeli sovereignty in Judea and Samaria. For the first phase we must do it in Area C, since it is their hope tofas our feet with this terror.

The political correctness is killing us

A talk with Ruhi Raza

In an interview with Eshel Hayon (July 11, 2016), chairman of the Habayit Hayehudi faction, MK Shuli Mualem-Refaeli, promoted a clear and resonant position on the issue of sovereignty, despite the possible consequence of a head-on collision with Prime Minister Netanyahu.

In the interview she explained that the belief that “the battle against terror must be waged against its three sources in parallel: ideology, funding and suicide.” The military and the police work like crazy. I see it in every day in the streets, but the real war is to “change the diskire” by applying Israeli sovereignty in Judea and Samaria. For the first phase we must do it in Area C, since it is their hope tofas our feet with this terror.

The majority of the Israeli public understands that there will not be two states here and it is clear to all of us that if the 450 thousand Jews who live in Judea and Samaria today are not going anywhere. I have proposed the Normalization Law, which is intended to normalize the matter of the communities in Judea and Samaria. In the interview she explained that the belief that “the battle against terror must be waged against its three sources in parallel: ideology, funding and suicide.” The military and the police work like crazy. I see it in every day in the streets, but the real war is to “change the diskire” by applying Israeli sovereignty in Judea and Samaria. For the first phase we must do it in Area C, since it is their hope tofas our feet with this terror.

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We must expand the Plans to Build the Cities, build kindergartens and develop the Land because it is part of us and we are part of it. The situation where we want to increase electrical capacity for the heating system from anyone if we want to put ten million donuts or more, is unacceptable. Katz mentions the certificates of recognition that the local authorities receive from the councils in Judea and Samaria for standing by them and supporting them in a practical way.

Minister Haim Katz deals mostly with the issues of welfare and the economy, but even in those issues, he sees the advancement of Israeli holdings in Judea and Samaria as an objective, step after step, acre after acre, and he is patient...

Haim Katz, who is Minister of Welfare and Social Services, is considered to be one of the most effective “bulldozers” in the upper echelons of the Likud, just as when he provided as head of the Likud Central Committee and not only during his days as minister in the Israeli government. Minister Katz, says his supporters and detractors alike, knows how to move things along, quietly, methodically, step by step, but calmly, things that are important to him and that he marks as an objective, are achieved. Perhaps this is the reason that when he says that the State of Israel and the government of Israel are drawing closer to the vision of sovereignty, even at a slow pace than he would have pointed, then really it is a reason for optimism.

In the very beginning of a discussion with him, Minister Katz launched no doubt regarding where he stands within the wide ideological range of his party, the Likud. He was one of the intellectuals who fought against the occupation. I don’t like the term ‘saints’. In my eyes there are residents who are settling the Land of Israel, and regarding what course to pursue in Judea and Samaria, Katz walks realistic and practical. “We must expand the Plans to Build the Cities, build kindergartens and develop the Land because it is part of us and we are part of it. The situation where we would have permission from anyone if we want to increase electrical capacity for the heating system because there are now more children in the house, is unacceptable”, Katz summarized the practical, economic part of his support of the settlement enterprise and mentions the certificates of recognition that he received from the councils in Judea and Samaria for standing by them and supporting them in a practical way.

Katz, in a democracy and we have a Prime Minister who is the first among equals and he is the leader. With my limited power, I stand to the side and to the Right of all the heads of the Authorities”, says Katz and provides an example, in his usual, straightforward way, in his behavior towards the communities and those who head them. “We have had several difficult months of terror. Community heads presented their needs for welfare, social workers and community activities, in accordance with their demands I brought the government to make the decision to transfer 20 million shekels for these needs. They said, in the government office, that they would transfer it in million, three million from the Treasury Ministry and those from the Department of Welfare. I said that I would not accept such a decision. It’s either twenty million, ten from the Treasury Ministry and seven from Welfare, an amount that will accomplish something, or it’s just throwing money around and I don’t accept such a decision. I did not raise this in the government”.

“I am not trying to feel anyone. We do not have a lot of money. We are a very poor body, and we must get value for the money that we spend. If I can throw money around and do not remedy the problem, I would not give this amount. If I was rich, I would put down three million and even if I didn’t get results I wouldn’t have starved, but since I am not rich, I want to put ten million”. I explained that the heads of communities of Gush Etzion, South Hershon Hills and Samaria and they will apply pressure and hope that we will have results”. Katz summarized the practical, economic part of his support of the settlement enterprise and mentions the certificates of recognition that he received from the councils in Judea and Samaria for standing by them and supporting them in a practical way.

“Just as the Prime Minister came and said that we will leave the Golan and the government of Israel is an integral part of the Land of Israel, this is what I would like to see in Judea and Samaria, that the government of Israel would come to Samaria, to Brynnim or to Gush Etzion and hold a government session there and the prime minister would make the same sort of declaration that he made in the Golan”, Katz, a season when the Prime Minister made clear and roundtable declarations about the future of Israeli holdings in this area. Katz expect and hopes to hear and see a similar demonstration in Judea and Samaria as well.

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As Minister Katz comes to Judea and Samaria and declares that just as the Golan is an integral part of Israel, so is Judea and Samaria”, Prime Minister Netanyahu overlooks the bulldozer actions from from a distance. Photo: Yossi Aloni

Just as the Prime Minister came and said that we will not leave the Golan and that the Golan is an integral part of the Land of Israel, this is what I would like to see in Judea and Samaria.

There is progress toward sovereignty, but it is not moving quickly enough.

Minister Katz’ practical behavior stems, as mentioned, from a clear ideological background and when he is asked what vision he presents for the future of Judea and Samaria he shows a short, clear answer: “As in the Golan”, and maintains the spatial vision that the government of Israel held in the Golan Heights, a season when the Prime Minister made clear and roundtable declarations about the future of Israeli holdings in this area. Katz expect and hopes to hear and see a similar demonstration in Judea and Samaria as well.

“We live in a democracy and we have a head, and fortunately for us, I do not see anyone who will replace him, neatly or not from the opposition”. Katz, a man of action. I will not be Prime Minister even in another few years, a million pensioner I say that everything that I have touched, even when there was no chance, ultimately, things turned our such that I brought results in the end. I believe in smart work, not hard work, but smart, the kind that brings results”.

“Let’s be like the Bedouin who says that even if it takes forty years to achieve something, he says that it happened quickly. We must have patience and seriousness and not engage in vain activity. The Land of Israel was built with great pain and we must endure what the Almighty intended for us. We must work step by step and achieve the goals that we have set for ourselves, to build and to be built up in this Land because this is the Land of our forefathers and we have no other inheritance. We must make sure that life in the communities of Judea and Samaria has a sense of permanency and that there are no encumbrances, like in Haifa or any other place”.

And besides your personal vision, what about the vision of the ruling party, the Likud? We don’t hear a clear vision to substantiate the vision of Oslo and the idea of two states coming out of your party, “In a democracy, we have a head, and fortunately for us, I do not see anyone who will replace him, neatly or not from the opposition”.

We must work step by step and achieve the goals that we have set for ourselves; to build and to be built up in this Land because this is the Land of our forefathers and we have no other inheritance. The Land of Israel was built with great pain and we must endure what the Almighty intended for us. We must work step by step and achieve the goals that we have set for ourselves; to build and to be built up in this Land because this is the Land of our forefathers and we have no other inheritance.
In an interview with Sovereignty, Danny Danon, our ambassador at the UN, tells of the difficulty of turning the steering wheel of diplomacy in the international arena, an arena where the Israeli leadership, by its own hands, has implanted the delusive idea of dividing the Land.

"They understand that the Argument here is not over Territory"

Danny Danon recounts the events in Israel and abroad to distinguish between Muslim terror on the character of the state proposal. Instead it affirms that we are not what our platform presently reflects. We prove that this is not true and that it is unacceptable. There is no justification for terror against any nation. We must not wish to split the city. Instead of calling for the U.S. embassy to be moved from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem in fulfillment of U.S. law, we have sought amicable. Making matters worse is the damaging language that has been similarly influential into our Republican platform, some of which completely tramples upon the sovereignty of the Israeli people and their government, by endorsing President Obama and Hillary Clinton’s efforts to pressure Israel in negotiating with their countrymen in the face of suicidal risk. Over the past few years, instead of being the ambassador of Prime Minister Netanyahu, Danon has been instrumental in the international arena, an arena where the Israeli leadership, by its own hands, has imbedded the delusive idea of dividing the Land.

"...For the last 4 years, instead of standing in support for the indivisibility of Jerusalem, the eternal capital of the Jewish people and their nation-state, we have lent our silent approval to those wishing to split the city. Instead of calling for the U.S. embassy to be moved from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem in fulfillment of U.S. law, we have remained silent..."
Implementation of national rights for the Arabs of Judea and Samaria – Perhaps only in Jordan

The co-chairman of the Land of Israel Lobby, MK Yoav Kish, sees sovereignty in the entire territory as a historical and political necessity and Menahem Begin’s vision of autonomy as the solution for Judea and Samaria.

To MK Yoav Kish, co-chair (together with MK Bezalel Smotrich) of the Land of Israel Lobby, the necessary objective for Judea and Samaria is clear. “The State of Israel must apply sovereignty over this territory. This territory must remain Israeli territory,” he clearly states.

Kish is well aware of the political complexity entailed in the process of applying sovereignty and he states that such a process will not happen in one quick step, but will require a long period of public relations work so that this concept will gradually seep into the sphere of international consciousness.

In MK Kish’s estimation, statesmen in Israel and outside of Israel, even those who until now did not believe in the vision of sovereignty, are beginning to internalize the idea that “there cannot be any other situation”, as he puts it. “Israel cannot gamble on its future. With countries around us falling apart, we cannot have a hybrid entity that will do nothing but bring about the next war. Therefore, not only because of the belief that this is our Land but also because of the desire to find a practical solution, it is clear that Judea and Samaria must be part of the State of Israel.”

Kish sees the announcement of the start of the Labor party, MK Herzog, that this is our Land but because of the belief that this is our Land but not the time to strive for the establishment of states in one quick step, but will require a long period of public relations work and things will not happen overnight, but will definitely happen.” Also, in the capitals of Europe, which are now flooded with millions of refugees, they understand that reality can change. We must strive to lead such a process.

And if They Nevertheless Want to Vote for Parliament?

Kish casts a glance into the future to try to discern what the reality in Judea and Samaria will be in another decade or more, and relate to the vision of the Likud leaders, the late Prime Minister Menahem Begin. “I will never give the Arabs of Judea and Samaria Israeli citizenship. I will not allow them to vote for the Israeli Knesset. The correct and desirable solution is autonomy, and the model for this already exists, more or less, in the field. The realization of national rights will not happen in Judea and Samaria. The only state in which such rights can be achieved is the State of Israel. The only state in which such rights can be achieved is the State of Israel.”

Gradually, people are starting to understand that actually it is those people who do favor two states that are the delusional ones. You see this in what is happening to the Labor party. The public is trending in the right and the power of Haaretz is very narrow and limited. It is a niche that is gradually disappearing. They have an interesting economic newspaper, The Marker, and that is criticized too, but I do not think that Haaretz succeeds in reporting public opinion or the opinion of the decision makers.

How do you, as a co-chairs and members of the Land of Israel Lobby, move or toward the implementation of the vision of sovereignty in a practical way?

“We are very, very active in this matter. We are dealing with many problems and the problem of sovereignty is one of the essential matters that we push forward. We are also dealing with the subject of the building freeze and limitations in Judea and Samaria. We are not engaged in a battle to renew the building in Ma’ale Adumim; we right now are in a process of planning our steps in the matter of sovereignty; this is a central focus of the Lobby and we are looking to see how to attack the subject in the coming term. I admit that during the first year of the term we had a period of organization and consolidation, to identify who is with us in the coalition and who we could work with, but in the next session there will be better news on this subject.”

Will we use this in the legislative sphere? “We want to promote legislation but in a way that will be successful. We have no intention to act carelessly and see what happens. We are leading a gradual, well-structured process to strengthen sovereignty. This can be summed up by saying that the Lobby is investigating the matter of sovereignty in depth and what steps to take in the coming session.”

You mentioned the subject of the building freeze – in dealing with this subject, do you not find yourself somewhat restricted and prevented from acting precisely because you are a member of the ruling party, someone who cannot lead a head-on confrontation with the Prime Minister and Minister of Defense, who is the responsible agent for activities in the field?

“This can be summed up by saying that the Lobby is investigating the matter of sovereignty in depth and what steps to take in the coming session.”

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“This can be summed up by saying that the Lobby is investigating the matter of sovereignty in depth and what steps to take in the coming session.”
Regarding the commandment to settle the Land, the sages said that it is “equivalent to all the commandments in the Torah” (Tosafot Yerushalmi Yoma 63a). The Commandment to settle the Land is unique, because it is the only one of all the commandments that in order to keep it, one must be prepared to endanger one’s life. This is because the direct violation of this commandment is annulled in order to save life. As it is said (Hosea 3:15): “You shall therefore keep My statutes and My ordinances, which I will teach you.”

From the general commandment, the Torah specifies for every individual, in his power to perform the general commandment. And even when the Land was under foreign rule and we did not have the military power to conquer it, it was still a commandment for each and every individual to do everything he could in order to come to the Land and live in it; since his settling in the Land helped to support the connection between Israel and his Land for the many long years of exile, and served as a basis for the re-establishment of the nation in the Land of the Jew.

On the first of Tishrei, 5770 (according to the traditional date counting the years since the creation of the world), the status of independence was declared and sovereignty over the Land was established by the people of Israel, the People of Israel were privileged to have the possibility to return and carry out the commandment of settling the Land, after two thousand years of exile. And thus, we find that the Land is still a part of the Torah, even if most of its residents are non-Jews. The mouth, or the rest of the commandment, is still valid. For many years, the cities of Judea in their ruin will say: “You will return and conquer; you will use our fields and our gardens. And the rule is that even if most of the residents of these cities are Jews, as long as they are ruled by non-Jews, the cities are considered to be in ruins, and we are still our garrisons upon them. And if they are under the sovereignty of Israel, even if most of their residents are non-Jews, they are still considered to be in ruins, and we do not have the command to settle them.”

The Commandment to settle the Land is unique, because it is the only one of all the commandments that in order to keep it, one must be prepared to endanger one’s life. This is because the direct violation of this commandment is annulled in order to save life. As it is said (Hosea 3:15): “You shall therefore keep My statutes and My ordinances, which I will teach you.”

The Commandment to Settle the Land

The Land of Israel Lobby in the Knesset on the subject of sovereignty

By Former MK Orit Struck, Chairman of the Land of Israel Lobby

The Commandment to Settle the Land

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Sovereignty - From Theory to Practice

On the Activity of the Land of Israel Lobby in the Knesset on the subject of sovereignty

By Former MK Orit Struck, Chairman of the Land of Israel Lobby

The Land of Israel Lobby in the Knesset, directed by MK Yair Kahl and Beidul Smorch, made a strategic decision to focus on the subject of sovereignty from an anti-peace and anti-peace deal perspective. The deep, professional discussions dealing with the acceptability of the sovereignty idea within the Israeli sphere (among the public as well as in parliament and in the government) saw the arrival of the head of the Land of Israel Lobby to the government, the right-wing shift in Israeli public opinion, and the changes within the international arena (both in Europe and the United States) – have combined to create an important juncture for the opportunity that we must not miss.

The understanding is that there is a need for a very broad consensus in order to promote the concept of promoting sovereignty over Judea and Samaria, sovereign plan, compared to the only plan floated in the political market the 2 state plan. The head of the Land of Israel Lobby, Benny Kashriel, announced his support of the plan, saying: “The Right must change their mind and build a plan of sovereignty that will be accepted by the whole of Israeli society. We support the plan of sovereignty, saying: ‘The Right must change their mind and build a plan of sovereignty that will be accepted by the whole of Israeli society.’”

During the “Sovereignty Conference” that we held in the Knesset, the law proposal was raised formally and served to the Knesset Spokesman, who took the opportunity to express support for the plan and the declaration of sovereignty. After his, Justice Minister Ayelet Shaked and Minister of Justice Yair Levin, who explained that this is a key step towards peace, and that the political plan that will extend to all of Judea and Samaria. Haim Bibas, Chairman of the Union of Local Authorities, Beni Biton, Chairman of the Development Envoys Forum, and many other MKs, council heads and public figures also gave their blessing, expressed their solidarity and the Declaration of Sovereignty. The Lobby will continue to promote the sovereignty plan for Judea and Samaria, regardless of the next government, and even more so in the next winter session, which will undoubtedly be a politically stormy session.

And now we come to your part, dear readers. You can also join our sovereignty initiative: Follow the (Habonim) Facebook page for the Land of Israel Lobby in the Knesset and follow the ongoing activities that you can join – follow the principles of the plan, and the plan will attract the support of the Center for promoting the sovereignty plan. Now we are in the legislative phase on the proposals to apply sovereignty over Ma’ale Adumim. We have obtained the signatures of almost all the coalition factions’ heads (except for Yakubov Hufnagel), and one more representative from every faction.

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With the collapse of several artificial nation-states created by the victors of the First World War, the entire region from the Mediterranean Sea to the Persian Gulf has entered a prolonged period of instability. The Syrian and Libyan states have ceased to exist; the Iraqi state is near-collapse; the Lebanese state is hostage to Iran; the Turkish state has just survived a military coup and is descending into authoritarian rule; and Saudi Arabia will not be able to buy domestic peace much longer if oil prices remain low. Egypt survived a revolution and counterrevolution to return to the status quo of military rule, but depends on subsidies from the Gulf States.

Non-state actors now occupy the political and military space left vacant by the collapse or decline of nation-states. That is emphatically true in Syria, Lebanon and Iraq, and increasingly true in Turkey. The most fanatical and determined of these actors play the decisive role—Hezbollah in Lebanon and Syria and the Iran-backed Shi’ite militias in Iraq, and ISIS and al-Qaeda in Iraq and Syria. Ethnic and sectarian divisions that were contained by the region’s autocracies have turned into vehicles for existential war. With a military-age population of nearly 30 million, the region has sufficient cannon-fodder to continue the war for another generation, even without the involvement of foreign fighters from the Caucasus, Western China and Southeast Asia.

That is why Israel cannot presently give up control of Judea and Samaria, and will not be able to give up control in the foreseeable future, whether or not it wants to. The problem lies not with the settlers but with the non-state actors. Radicalization has replaced long-established states with non-state actors. What passes for “Palestine” is a collection of radicalized non-state actors in search of a state. The IDF presence in Judea and Samaria limits the extent to which these non-state actors can be drawn into the conflict that surrounds them. The departure of the IDF would leave Iran, ISIS and al-Qaeda free to compete for control of the various armed entities controlled by the Palestinian Authority, with their estimated (in 2007) 176,500 men under arms. Surrounded by fail states, a putative State of Palestine would become a prefabricated failed state.

Why did the states of the Levant and Mesopotamia fail so thoroughly and so suddenly? The Sykes-Picot agreement of 1916 brought nearly a century of relative stability to the Levant and Mesopotamia. Britain and France proposed to divide the Arab provinces of the soon-to-be-defeated Ottoman Empire along lines that disrupted ethnic and confessional continuity. Syria and Lebanon, the French sphere of influence, separated the Sunnis of Mesopotamia from their co-religionists and tribal cousins in the Levant by an apparently arbitrary border. Iraq, ruled first by a Hashemite monarchy installed by the British and then by the Ba’ath Party, allowed a Sunni minority to rule a Shi’ite majority. After the Second World War Iraq and Syria became virtual mirror images: the same Ba’ath Party ruled both countries, except that the Syrian Ba’athists were led by a deviant Shi’ite sect, the Alawites, while the Iraqi Ba’athists were Sunni.

This arrangement was crafted for a pre-modern society with a small middle class, in which military service offered social advancement to the rural poor. The incipient crisis of modernity, though, encountered fatal policy errors by the West.

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With the collapse of several artificial nation-states created by the victors of the First World War, the entire region from the Mediterranean Sea to the Persian Gulf has entered a prolonged period of instability. The Syrian and Libyan states have ceased to exist; the Iraqi state is near-collapse; the Lebanese state is hostage to Iran; the Turkish state has just survived a military coup and is descending into authoritarian rule; and Saudi Arabia will not be able to buy domestic peace much longer if oil prices remain low. Egypt survived a revolution and counterrevolution to return to the status quo of military rule, but depends on subsidies from the Gulf States.

Non-state actors now occupy the political and military space left vacant by the collapse or decline of nation-states. That is emphatically true in Syria, Lebanon and Iraq, and increasingly true in Turkey. The most fanatical and determined of these actors play the decisive role—Hezbollah in Lebanon and Syria and the Iran-backed Shi’ite militias in Iraq, and ISIS and al-Qaeda in Iraq and Syria. Ethnic and sectarian divisions that were contained by the region’s autocracies have turned into vehicles for existential war. With a military-age population of nearly 30 million, the region has sufficient cannon-fodder to continue the war for another generation, even without the involvement of foreign fighters from the Caucasus, Western China and Southeast Asia.

That is why Israel cannot presently give up control of Judea and Samaria, and will not be able to give up control in the foreseeable future, whether or not it wants to. The problem lies not with the settlers but with the non-state actors. Radicalization has replaced long-established states with non-state actors. What passes for “Palestine” is a collection of radicalized non-state actors in search of a state. The IDF presence in Judea and Samaria limits the extent to which these non-state actors can be drawn into the conflict that surrounds them. The departure of the IDF would leave Iran, ISIS and al-Qaeda free to compete for control of the various armed entities controlled by the Palestinian Authority, with their estimated (in 2007) 176,500 men under arms. Surrounded by fail states, a putative State of Palestine would become a prefabricated failed state.

Why did the states of the Levant and Mesopotamia fail so thoroughly and so suddenly? The Sykes-Picot agreement of 1916 brought nearly a century of relative stability to the Levant and Mesopotamia. Britain and France proposed to divide the Arab provinces of the soon-to-be-defeated Ottoman Empire along lines that disrupted ethnic and confessional continuity. Syria and Lebanon, the French sphere of influence, separated the Sunnis of Mesopotamia from their co-religionists and tribal cousins in the Levant by an apparently arbitrary border. Iraq, ruled first by a Hashemite monarchy installed by the British and then by the Ba’ath Party, allowed a Sunni minority to rule a Shi’ite majority. After the Second World War Iraq and Syria became virtual mirror images: the same Ba’ath Party ruled both countries, except that the Syrian Ba’athists were led by a deviant Shi’ite sect, the Alawites, while the Iraqi Ba’athists were Sunni.

This arrangement was crafted for a pre-modern society with a small middle class, in which military service offered social advancement to the rural poor. The incipient crisis of modernity, though, encountered fatal policy errors by the West.

“Israel cannot presently give up control of Judea and Samaria, and will not be able to give up control in the foreseeable future, whether or not it wants to.”

David P. Goldman
Israel is the only industrial country in the world to reproduce at above the replacement rate of 2.1 live births per female, and by a substantial margin...
The world is silent on settlements around the globe, that, unlike by us really are illegal

Where did the term “illegal settlements” come from? And does this term have any real meaning? And why are other settlements in the world ignored?

In short – where did we go wrong? Prof. Avi Bell answers.

The issue of the territories of Judea and Samaria and their status in international law is one of the main issues that trouble politicians and public figures. When talking about the possibility of applying sovereignty. It seems that this political, sovereign process will put into the brick wall of international law, which defines it as illegal. It seems that Israeli sovereignty and even legal in general, will find itself under attack and subject to the sort of isolated denouncing or condemnation in acts that are against international law.

But is it true that this is really only the case? Prof. Avi Bell, a faculty member of the College of Law at Bar Bani University and a senior fellow in the Belkin Forum, states that this alarmism terminology, “illegal settlements”, which Israelite sovereignty proponents see as so fearful, does not exist at all in international law and if it did, it would not be, in any way to be legislated.

Prof. Bell further emphasizes his words, noting that those who oppose the communities and outposts in Judea and Samaria use the prohibition against forcible transfer of populations into occupied territories as a beacon upon which to build their legal case, but this prohibition, as mentioned, is not in all relevance to the local communities in Judea and Samaria. He reveals a few from a long list of true forcible transfers of populations into occupied territories in the world at large, and miracle of miracles, these cases are those that actually do common acts

In each of these places states take coercive actions against the populations in order to transfer them to an occupied area and despite this, we do not hear the term illegal settlements. This term is reserved only for Israel. Here, for us, for some reason, it is as soon as totally obvious and it even doesn’t need a depth

We cannot expect the world to be more Zionist than we are

How have we come to the situation where this problematic term, “illegal settlements”, is used, especially for Israel, and not for any other place in the world, despite the illegal things that are actually going on there? Too, as in many other cases, we cannot necessarily blame external factors. Again, it is

It was not a foreign country that forced Israel to administer this area by military rule according to the laws of belligerent occupation. In 67, Israel took upon herself, by her own free will, the decision to administer the territory according to the laws of belligerent occupation. In contradistinction to the way that Israelis characterize the situation, Prof. Bell explains that when China carries out forcible transfers of populations into occupied territories in this area by military rule, the decision to do so is not as a policy decision, but they chose not to take this citizenship rather than permanent residency, or more accurately, as a different sort of Israeli occupation, if military occupation is not acceptable, withdrawal is also not acceptable, and sovereign Israeli holdings such as in eastern Jerusalem are also not acceptable. In the end of the world, what is acceptable?” he asks.

Israel has a range of possible options for action. But she must act..."

In Prof. Bell’s opinion the options that Israel can take are broad, and in his words, “From a legal point of view all paths are open. It is a question that only Israel herself must decide, as to what she wants to do. We must remember that the fact that we have military status then means not from a legal decision, but only from a political decision, not to relate to Judea and Samaria as part of the State of Israel, in contrast to eastern Jerusalem and the Golan Heights, since we do consider ourselves as a part of the State of Israel”.

Bell is also not alarmed by scenarios of sovereignty and full citizenship for the Arabs of Judea and Samaria. He mentions the precedent of east Jerusalem, where the residents were given the option of Israeli citizenship or not. In his opinion this is seen as totally obvious and is not even discussed in depth.

According to him, the surreal reality, in which Israel pays a political price for the lack of sovereignty, a reality in which even the citizens of Israel do not recognize Israel’s right to sovereignty and holdings in Judea and Samaria, is a much more difficult and dangerous reality in the long run. “If we are afraid to stand up for our rights here at home, it will be much more difficult to convince even the friends that we have in the world to stand up for our rights, since if we indeed have rights on this Land, why don’t we exercise them”.

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Raheel Raza, a Muslim native of Pakistan, tells the truth to the West and the Arab world, despite being faced with threats to her life and constant attempts to silence her clear voice speaking out against the Islamic trend toward terror and jihad; she tells the truth that so many suppress in the name of Political Correctness and politeness due to the Salafi-Wahhabi ideology inspired from Saudi Arabia on the backs of billions of petro dollars. The war between Iran and Saudi Arabia is being waged today in Pakistan and she has transitioned tears into fists. Her faith was stolen and replaced by a vicious, violent ideology that we see all over the Muslim world today.

“It’s been a long hard journey to learn and acknowledge what has happened to my faith and my fellow-Muslims there was one thing I learned as a child and which I cling to during my entire life – that truth and justice cannot be hidden. Today we are engulfed with the virus of a radical Islamist ideology and the global rise of a jihadist insurgency. This is our challenge of the times. Like any other virus if we don’t identify it, if we don’t acknowledge it and find a cure for it, it will envelop us all. This is why I speak out, I speak out for all of us, for myself and most importantly for the future of my children and grandchildren.”
Forging a roadmap to sovereignty, resisting the heirs of Sykes-Picot

By Ari Soffer

The Zionism calling of the day, therefore, is to push back, to stop, and to ultimately diminish those efforts to squeeze us out.

The real enemy

Is it not arrogant to think that the heirs of Sykes-Picot, the settlements, and the rejectionists, will act less than decisively to subvert Israeli sovereignty.

Time and time again, world powers show their obsessive, arrogant addiction to squeezing our borders as if we do not exist.

The aim of the Arab terrorists is to push back, to disrupt, and to ultimately diminish those efforts to squeeze us out.

In the pocket of the great powers, in exchange for their military aid, the Arab world has been imported back into our independent homeland.

The only way to do that is to remove the doubt, to stake our claim to this land as clearly as possible.

Ultimately, the government of Israel must apply Israeli sovereignty over Judea and Samaria, as it did in the past in the Golan Heights and Jerusalem.

By Ari Soffer (Photo: Avi Kontorovich)

The Zionist calling of the day, therefore, is to push back, to resist, and to ultimately diminish those efforts to squeeze us out.

The only way to do that is to remove the doubt, to stake our claim to this land as clearly as possible.

Ultimately, the government of Israel must apply Israeli sovereignty over Judea and Samaria, as it did in the past in the Golan Heights and Jerusalem.
The Americans want to hear us speak about our rights.

The discussion of sovereignty is now also heard on the other side of the ocean, but in order for it to take on real momentum we need Israeli statesmen to speak clearly about it.

**Jeff Daube, ZOA Israel Director and co-chair of “Legal Grounds”** is working to provide legal and other tools to Israeli politicians so that they will finally say things with clarity.

Jeff Daube at the 33 hour vigil organized by Women in Green, near the PM’s residence, calling for the application of Sovereignty.

Photo: A vi Kontorovich

In the halls of Israeli politics there are many who understand that Israeli sovereignty in Judea and Samaria is a policy that is ethical, historic, Zionist and indispensable for security, but amazingly, despite the fact that they have beentement for some time in the political ocean, they do not have the necessary public relations tools and facts to stand up and present their positions in various spheres of society. The need for many of them is that they do not take a stand and they keep waiting for something to happen and for the reality of sovereignty to rise to the surface from some other place.

To prevent precisely such a sterile and vacuous situation the Legal Grounds organization was born, which seeks to equip our politicians with data and factual and historical documents that they will be able to use during public battles against dividing the Land and establishing a terror state in its heart and in favor of promoting the vision of sovereignty, and it turns out that there is quite a bit of his organization’s legal and historical arguments and evidence is based on the Levy Report, but not on it alone.

**Educate the Israeli Leaders that there is no Occupation**

“We are not a political organization. We think it is only to correct false information and educate our leaders. It has already been 22 years since the era of Begin and Shamir; there is a need to educate the Israeli leadership to understand how deeply our rights are rooted in Judea and Samaria, so that they will understand and internalize the reality that there is no occupation and that it is out of place to talk about our presence in those areas as occupation, but rather, it is the validation and implementation of our rights, which were given to us by our laws, by international law.

It is our right to live and build there.”

Daube supports his routine position with historical data that has been suppressed, including, among other things, the actual meaning of the clause that is brandished by those who oppose sovereignty; the clause that was decreed by the Fourth Geneva Convention, which states that a population of civilians may not be transferred to an occupied territory. “This clause is not relevant to our presence in Judea and Samaria”, he states, and further clarifies that the purpose of the clause was to prevent the aftermath of the German occupation in the Second World War, and that it actually refers to forcible transfer of populations from the occupier’s territory to the occupied territory.

Daube also mentions the document of the British Mandate for the Land of Israel in which, in answer to the question of whether to withdraw from Judea and Samaria and uproot communities, only one third answered in the positive. Another question, asked to that same group, read: “...that it is out of place to talk about our presence in these areas as occupation, but rather, it is the implementation of our rights; rights that were given to us by our laws, by international law...”

The objective in establishing Legal Grounds is to convince our leaders and encourage them to begin speaking aloud, and not in a whisper, about our rights in Judea and Samaria, and to encourage them to begin speaking aloud, and not in a whisper, about our rights in Judea and Samaria and to begin speaking aloud, and not in a whisper, about our rights in Judea and Samaria...”

Daube supports his resolute position with dramatic historical data as well as what was discussed at the San Remo Conference. “This, and the decisions that stemmed from them, together with other international documents, are the anchors for the legal Israeli hold in Judea and Samaria on the foundations of international law.”

“They are people, even on the Right, who say that they must respect these subjects in the spirit of the Report of Edmund Levy, but they think that it is necessary to promote matters under the table, under the radar and not to talk about it openly and aloud.”

This idea makes us seem like thieves in the night, says Daube, who mentions a survey that was taken in October 2015 in which, in answer to the question of whether to withdraw from Judea and Samaria and to uproot communities, only one third answered in the positive. Another question, asked to that same group, read: “...that it is out of place to talk about our presence in these areas as occupation, but rather, it is the implementation of our rights; rights that were given to us by our laws, by international law...”

Another activity involved in presenting the younger generation’s voice is holding meetings with public figures and MKs from national parties. The MK’s voices that we met with MKs from the Likud and MKs from the Likud, and we are just beginning a new round of meetings these days, with the objective of getting the nationalist parties to adopt officially the sovereignty solution for themselves, and to insinuate the importance of the matter within their constiuencies.

In the social media we maintain a Facebook page that has thousands of followers, with more every day. We have recently opened a Twitter channel, and hopefully in the near future a new Facebook group. We intend to hold a unique kind of conference soon for teens and young adults, where leading public opinion shapers will speak, and several artists who are identified with the general national community will appear.

Gabai invites the younger generation “to lend support, follow our activities and join our ranks!”

Mr Prime Israeli Sovereignty triumph over...
Public Figures Call for Sovereignty during events held by Women in Green

During this past year Women in Green held a series of events, lectures and conferences with the participation of public figures, along with many thousands of Israeli citizens who support the vision of sovereignty and call for its implementation. Below, we present you with a few choice quotes from these events.

Lectures can be viewed on the Women in Green youtube channel • www.womeningreen.org •

Prof. Aryeh Eldad, former MK

“Our claim is for sovereignty in the entire Land of Israel, not because the Arabs are murdering us but because this is our homeland, and we are raising this demand now because with the present campaign of Arab murdering Jews, the world will understand it.”

Rav Menahem Felix, among the founders of the renewed Jewish presence in Samaria

“The People of Israel has returned to its cradle and does not apply its sovereignty over the territory? Is this normal? We returned here in order to reestablish the Jewish kingdom”.

Yehuda Glick, MK

“The matter of sovereignty is in our hands. When the leadership senses that this is the will of the People, that’s what will be, and this will of the People is what I express in the Knesset. We must apply Israeli law in Judea and Samaria”.

Yisrael Harel, Founder of The Institute for Zionist Strategies

“Women in Green’s Sovereignty Campaign is the only extra-parliamentary political process taking place on the Right. This Sovereignty Campaign will succeed with the proper forethought and preparation”.

Areyh King, Member of the Jerusalem Municipality

“The solution for all of the Arabs on the other side of the Jordan River exists in Jordan. Encourage them to emigrate. Israel must invest heavily in housing projects east of the Jordan”.

Dr. Hagai Ben Artzi, Teacher at David Yellin school

“The plan is to apply sovereignty first in Area C, about 60 percent of the territory. And this way there is no demographic threat. Afterward we will progress little by little”.

Yosi Dagan, Head of Samaria Local Council

“We expect to apply the law in the communities not as a favor but as our right. The thirteen percent of the citizens of Israel who live in Judea and Samaria have all of the obligations but not all of the privileges of citizenship. Sovereignty will solve that.”

Rav Eli Ben Dahan, Deputy Defense Minister MK

“At the root of the wave of terror is the desire to expel us from the Land. We are here to tell them that we have returned here forever in order to realize the vision of the prophets and G-d’s promise. The terror attacks cannot frighten us off. Our true response to terror will be sovereignty all areas of Judea and Samaria. This is the only way that those terrorists’ hope will be extinguished”.

Motti Yogeve, Member of Knesset

“The goal is sovereignty between the sea and the Jordan River. The Arabs will have three options as in the writings of Joshua: Whoever wishes to accept our rule, will accept it; whoever wishes to fight is free to do so; and this is what we have a strong army for; and whoever wishes to leave, should leave, that is acceptable to us too. There are no other options. The State of Israel is simply going to apply her sovereignty. It’s not so complicated”.

Yohai Damri, Head of Southern Hebron Local Council

“The only way to wage the war on terror is to give them a reason to stop, and if terror is an engine that drives the hope for a state, we must cut off this hope and create an alternative that will prevent terror. Therefore, from this point of view as well, the demand for sovereignty in Judea and Samaria is not only justified, but essential for the State of Israel”.

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